

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 20, 1912

Beinn Bhreagh, Near Baddeck, Nova Scotia. November 20, 1912. Mrs. A. Graham Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington. D.C, U.S.A. Dear Mabel,

I suppose 'no news is good news'? but I am very anxious to know how Daisy and Nancy are getting along. My best love to both.

Louis has found a dentist in Baddeck and has had two teeth removed. Result:— he is quite a different individual, smiling and feeling tha perhaps after all Beinn Bhreagh is a place where a colored man may exist with reasonable comfort.

1912 Nov 18, Monday: — Mr & Mrs Baldwin, Mr & Mrs Smallwood, and Tom Smallwood dined at the Hall tonight, and the Smallwoods stayed all night. Maggie tried her best to give us a good dinner — and succeeded.

1912 Nov 19, Tuesday: — Lena McCurdy and Mrs. William F. McCurdy dined at the Hall and stayed all night.

On Monday November 11, between three and four p.m. Mr. Byrnes started the syphon at the Cranberry pond. On Tuesday November 19, after eight days, the syphon was still running and the level of the pond had fallen only six inches. We intend to leave it running until it stops by itself. The false ground all round the edge of the pond is beginning to settle down and I suppose that before the syphon stops it will present 2 the appearance of the crater of a volcano.

The crematory at the Warehouse works like a charm, it has been burned out three times without any trouble. Only clean white ashes left. Mr. Byrnes will now build another at the Laboratory; and will then build one for the Bras d'Or Yacht Clubhouse in Baddeck, this

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being my contribution in the interests of sanitary science in Baddeck. The members of the Club come from all round Baddeck and Mr. Baldwin expects that they will do good missionary work.

An iron pipe, one half-inch inside diameter has been put up the study chimney and led to an insulated tank in the attic but again the mistake has been made of having the pipe leading to the tank almost horizontal instead of sloping upwards at a considerable angle. It also entered the tank at only one inch below the surface of the water. Result: — Very little evidence of water circulation. Both the hot water and cold water pipes are too hot to be held in the hand, but the water in the tank was warm to only a very slight degree. The hot water pipe close to the tank and several feet away from the chimney became, within five minutes after the study fire was lighted too hot to be held by the hand, showing that even with a small pipe placed in a chimney a very considerable amount of heat may be saved. The whole arrangement is now being emptied of water and the hot water pipe will enter the tank much lower down, near the bottom, the tank will be elevated in the attic and brought near the chimney so that the hot water pipe will enter it at a considerable angle and near the lower part of the tank. I hope in this way to secure a good water circulation and keep the cold water pipe at all events, cooler.

AGB